

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, respected columnist Charles Krauthammer of the Washington Post correctly revealed the Senate Democratic filibuster of judicial nominees as a fraud.

He thoughtfully researched that one of the great traditions, customs, and unwritten rules of the Senate is that we do not filibuster judicial nominees. Only once in 200 years has a filibuster been successful, and it reflected uniquely a lack of votes for confirmation.

Senate Majority Leader FRIST is to be commended for maintaining the constitutional case for an up-or-down vote. Democrat obstructionism is a radical deviation from allowing Senators to vote on nominees who are highly qualified. Senator FRIST is courageously protecting the American people to take an unwritten 200-year-old rule to make it written.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

CALLING ON ISIKOFF AND WHITAKER TO ISSUE FULL RETRACTION AND APOLOGY FOR NEWSWEEK STORY

(Mr. NEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, today I stand as co-chair of the Afghan Caucus with the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Newsweek reporter Michael Isikoff fabricated an incident at Guantanamo Bay where American soldiers allegedly desecrated a copy of the Quran. Yesterday, Newsweek editor Mark Whitaker announced that Newsweek may have "inaccurately reported" the incident; yet he refuses to run a retraction.

Isikoff inaccurately reported an incident that led to riots throughout the Muslim world. Isikoff inaccurately reported an incident that led to the death of 17 innocent people. Isikoff inaccurately reported an incident that resulted in the international condemnation of the American military.

Newsweek's behavior is not merely unfortunate. It is criminal. Journalists wield considerable power, and therefore, must exercise responsibility. Though Isikoff's actions resulted in the death of innocent people, he is evidently accountable to no one. His Newsweek editor, Mark Whitaker, even refuses to run a retraction.

Michael Isikoff and Mark Whitaker's fraud explains why the Gallup poll says that media credibility is at its lowest point in 30 years.

I call on Michael Isikoff and Mark Whitaker to take responsibility by issuing a full retraction of their fabricated story and an apology to the Nation and to the Afghans. America's troops are in enough danger without self-righteous, yellow journalists like Michael Isikoff defaming them for a cheap headline.

NEWSWEEK MUST REWRITE OR RETRACT STORY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Afghan Caucus, let me acknowledge the fact that, although we have the first amendment, and we have a respected journalists and a respected publication, it is appropriate that we have an apology for the tragedy that has occurred in Afghanistan and in Pakistan.

Hundreds or tens of tens have lost their lives because of a report that soldiers at Guantanamo Bay flushed the Quran down the toilet, a report that has now been suggested by the person who reported it to be inaccurate.

I think in order to get ourselves back on track to create a more peaceful atmosphere in Afghanistan and to not undermine the peaceful track that the Afghani people are on with President Karsai, we must apologize, Newsweek must apologize, and it must, it must, rewrite the story or retract it if it is inaccurate or untrue.

It is important to note that everything that is said by Americans today can be characterized around the world to disturb the orderly peacefulness and the operations of new governments by countries where conflicts exist. It is appropriate that we recognize that the importance of our soldiers' safety rises above any potential thought that one cannot apologize.

So I hope that we will accept and recognize this need that the media and Newsweek will stand and apologize so that we can begin to rebuild and repair the schism that has now been created.

Telling the truth by media at all times, painful or not, is important, and an apology is owed; and I hope that this will occur very shortly.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 13, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 13 at 9:29 am:

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 86.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 135.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 136.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, *Clerk of the House.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. BART STUPAK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BART STUPAK, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony and documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

BART STUPAK,
Member of Congress.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 USC 6431 note), amended by section 681(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (22 USC 2651 note), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces that on May 14, 2005, the Speaker reappointed the following members on the part of the House to the Commission on International Religious Freedom:

Ms. Nina Shea, Washington, D.C., for a 2-year term ending May 14, 2007, to succeed herself;

and upon the recommendation of the minority leader:

Ms. Felice Gaer, Paramus, New Jersey, for a 2-year term ending May 14, 2007, to succeed herself.

CBO COST ESTIMATE ON H.R. 1817, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, on May 3, 2005, the Committee on Homeland Security filed its report on H.R. 1817, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006. At that time the committee had not yet received a Congressional Budget Office cost estimate, and it filed the report without the cost estimate required in clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Subsequently, the committee received the CBO cost estimate on H.R. 1817, and I am submitting it herewith for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the enclosed estimate be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the appropriate place.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?